



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Selectmen's Minutes 01-12-2009

TOWN OF ARLINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes
 Monday, January 12, 2009
 7:15 p.m.

Present: Ms. Rowe, Chair, Mr. Hurd, Vice Chair, Mr. Greeley, Mrs. Mahon and Ms.. LaCourt
 Also present: Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Rice and Mrs. Krepelka

FOR APPROVAL

1. CONSENT AGENDA (one vote required for approval of all items)
 - a. Minutes of Meetings: November 24, 2008, December 15, 2008
 Mrs. Mahon moved approval. SO VOTED (5-0)
 - b. Request: One Day All Alcohol License, 3/28/09
 Kathryn Gandek-Tighe, Dallin School PTO
 Mrs. Mahon moved approval subject to all conditions as set forth.
 SO VOTED (5-0)

LICENSES & PERMITS

2. Request: Second Hand Dealer License
 Linda Brannelly, d/b/a What's Yours is Mine, 1187 Massachusetts Avenue
 Mr. Greeley moved approval subject to all conditions as set forth.
 SO VOTED (5-0)

3. CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

Any matter presented for consideration of the Board shall neither be acted upon, nor a decision made the night of the presentation in accordance with the policy under which the Open Forum was established.

Paulo Marinelli, 28 Brooks Avenue, a member of the Winter Access Initiative, appeared before the Board to thank the Board of Selectmen, Town Manager and Public Works Director and employees for removing the snow at schools, Broadway, Massachusetts Avenue and major thoroughfares. He also gave credit to Stephen Harrington for inserting the Warrant Article last year to have the Town snow removal program include the clearing of heavily used sidewalks, curb cuts and school routes to increase accessibility and pedestrian safety throughout the Town. Mr. Marinelli thanked the Commission on Disability for their input to increase accessibility and pedestrian safety. The Board thanked Mr. Marinelli

for coming before the Board to say thank you.

TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS / OTHER BUSINESS

4. Request: Residential Handicap Parking @ 37 Fairmont Street

Catherine McGowan

Mr. Greeley moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

5. Request: Proclamation for Dennis Mercurio re: 25th Anniversary of LINKS

(Linking Neighborhood Kids with Seniors)

Clarissa Rowe, Chairman

The Selectmen honored Dennis Mercurio, a former Arlington Public Schools English teacher, for Linking Neighborhood Kids with Seniors. Mr. Mercurio started the program 25 years ago. Through LINKS, teenagers perform chores and errands for senior citizens earning a modest wage. Selectmen Hurd and Mahon both had Mr. Mercurio as a teacher and praised his teaching ability. Ms. LaCourt stated that her 13 year old daughter participates in the program and she has seen first hand how it builds bonds. Anyone wishing to participate in the LINKS program may call the Council on Aging at 781-674-3400.

6. For Approval: Zipcar Proposal

Annie LaCourt, Selectman

John Crooks, Zipcar

(tabled from 12/8/08 and 12/15/08 meetings)

John Brooks, Fleet Coordinator Zipcar Boston, appeared before the Board asking permission to have three Zipcars park in the Russell Common Lot at a cost of \$85.00 per month each for three designated spaces in the lot. The spaces would be occupied by Zipcars, available to their members by the hour or day, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Mr. Brooks stated that Zipcar members in Arlington will receive the benefit of increased availability of service; a cost-effective, environmentally-responsible alternative to individual car ownership. As more residents will be able to rely on fewer vehicles to satisfy their driving needs, the entire Arlington community will benefit by the easing of traffic and parking volume and reduced carbon emissions.

Zipcar has 341 customers in town, but only two cars. According to Fleet Coordinator John Crooks, there are 800 cars in Greater Boston.

During the discussion, members of the Board asked the Town Treasurer, Stephen J. Gilligan, questions regarding the appropriateness of ZipCar's offer to pay \$85 per month per space, and any comparative data.

Mr. Gilligan stated he had previously forwarded comparative figures to the Board relating to fee scenarios.~ He cited the City of Cambridge receives up to \$200 per space depending upon location.~ He further stated that a Town resident paying for a day permit and an overnight permit currently would pay \$965.00 annually per space without a guarantee of a space, and ZipCar's offer is \$1,020.00 per space, or only \$55 additional, with a guaranteed~ reserved space.

Should ZipCar be required to pay \$200 per space, as in Cambridge, the Town would receive \$2,400 per space, totaling \$7,200.

Ms. Mahon feels that Zipcar can afford to pay the Town more than \$85.00 per month and is worried about renting out public parking spaces to a for-profit company.

Mr. Edward Starr and Scott Smith, members of the Transportation Advisory Committee both spoke in favor of granting three more spaces to Zipcar. Mr. Starr stated that he is very excited about this and feels this is the way to allow citizens to live in Arlington without an extra car.

Ms. LaCourt feels this is a great proposal and one advantage for the Town is that Zipcar will take cars off the streets.

Mr. Hurd stated that he feels this is an initiative we should be proactively involved with for all the reasons that others have stated.

Mr. Greeley stated that the entire Board is in favor of granting the three spaces and agrees with the concept but it is the costs we are talking about.

Ms. Rowe stated the Mr. Brooks would have sailed through this last fall, but recent budget constraints have made town officials more anxious for good deals.

Mr. Greeley moved approval for three cars for a one- year trial and asked Chairman Rowe to negotiate a new rate with Zipcar. SO VOTED (5-0) Mr. Sullivan asked how will vehicles be moved during snowstorms and Mr. Brooks stated that Zipcar will clean off and remove the snow from the cars.

Correspondence Received

Jane M. Lyman Service Changes Be Rec'd
Comcast

Geoffrey C. Beckwith MMA Awards Ceremony & Awards Be Rec'd
Mass. Municipal Association
Mrs. Mahon moved receipt of correspondence received. SO VOTED (5-0)

New Business

Mr. Sullivan reported that he had submitted to the Governor's Office for consideration of funding under the federal stimulus bill for infrastructure. The total comes to \$65 million.

There is a strong likelihood that funding will go to the states and how much will ultimately be made available to cities and towns and how it will be distributed remains a question. This means for buildings, all the design, bid and permitting work needs to be completed within that 180 days.

Funding is also likely to be divided up between several categories of projects. The categories include:

- School Facilities
- Municipal Facilities
- State Facilities
- Transportation
- Clean Energy & Efficiency
- Information Technology
- Private Development

Mr. Sullivan stated this means that it is likely that projects in different categories will not be competing against one another, however, projects within the same category will compete. In other words, projects in the school facilities category will not necessarily be competing with projects in the municipal facilities or transportation categories. At this time, we have not been requested to prioritize our list of projects. Our largest category is schools which total \$30.8 million and includes \$23 million for the Thompson School. As you know this project already has completed preliminary plans. Stratton School, for which there are no architectural plans at this time, includes \$5.8 million for major systems improvements which could be designed quickly. The Board of Selectmen asked the Town Manager to prioritize the top 10 items and give them his report as soon as completed.

SO VOTED (5-0)

Mr. Sullivan reported that the review team, including Chairman Rowe, has selected Larry Koff & Associates of Brookline to complete the Town's commercial development plan.

Mrs. Mahon asked Town Counsel if she would look into a Warrant Article regarding Special Elections.

Mr. Hurd stated that a meeting of the Obama-Biden Health Care Initiative will be held on Wednesday, January 28th, 7 – 9:00 p.m. Town Hall Auditorium. The program will feature facilitated, small-group discussions. Participants will be asked to fill out a brief survey. The information gathered from this survey will be forwarded to the office of the incoming Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tom Daschle.

A meeting regarding the Mass. Avenue Corridor will be held on February 3rd from 7 to 9:00 p.m., Town Hall Auditorium to

provide public input for the last time. The goal is to have the plan in place in March, 2009.

Ms. LaCourt reported that she will be attending the 2009 Annual Massachusetts Municipal Meeting on January 23 - 24, 2009.

Ms. LaCourt reported that the Mayor, Superintendent of Schools and students from our Sister City of Nagaokakyō will be arriving the week of April 25 – May 4th. It is the 25th Anniversary of our Sister City and this event will be an official visit. The Town will be hosting a dinner at Town Hall in their honor. Mr. Sullivan will form a committee that will include Mrs. Krepelka and Ms. LaCourt.

Ms. LaCourt asked the Town Manager to talk to Director of Public Works, John Bean, regarding Public Works Budget relative to performance of Town Employees. Ms. Rowe and Mrs. Mahon feel we need more engineers added to the present staff – we should involve the existing staff in conversation due to their job expertise. The Board praised the Public Works Department for a great job plowing during the last three storms back to back.

Ms. Rowe and Mr. Hurd announced their intention to seek another three-year term on the Board. Mr. Hurd stated that there is a lot more to be done and doesn't think it's an appropriate time to have a "rookie" up here. Ms. Rowe stated that she would be very happy if she came in a far second to Mr. Hurd.

Ms. Rowe asked the Town Manager to put together a committee to hire the new Planning Director. Mrs. Mahon feels this is really an exciting position and looks forward to hearing how many candidates we hear from.

Ms. Rowe reported that she had heard concerns from residents regarding the use of salt being used to remove snow and ice from the bike path around Thorndike Field. Only sand is supposed to be used to clear the bikeway. Ms. Rowe stated that the Conservation Commission has concerns about using salt on the path because it abuts Spy Pond, Mill Brook, and wetland areas throughout the Town.

Mrs. Mahon moved to adjourn at 9:15 p.m.

SO VOTED (5-0)

A true record: Attest:

Marie A. Krepelka
Board Administrator